EDITORIAL: Blackboard Learn implementation hinders learning? **Page 3**

THE PURDUE UNIVERSITY CALUMET
CHRONICLE

Week of August 27, 2012 Vol. 32, Issue 2

ENTERTAINMENT
Hugh Laurie **Page 5**
'ParaNorman' **Page 5**
'Fez' **Page 6**

SPORTS
Intramural schedule **Page 7**
Women soccer **Page 8**
Intramural history **Page 8**

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Blackboard makes the mobile move

Richard Chambers
Chronicle Correspondent

Change is coming soon to Blackboard, and for many students, it is already here. The switch from Blackboard Vista to Blackboard Learn may bring convenience to students, since the new version includes access for mobile devices.

According to Heather Zamojski, director of academic research and computing, PUC introduced Learn, to 522 course sections this fall. This introduction precedes the full transition to Learn in the spring semester of 2013.

PUC piloted Learn in fall 2011, Zamojski said, when it was only used in one section. Then, in spring 2012, three sections utilized Learn, and several dozen courses tested it over the summer.

Instructors have the choice whether to participate in this semester's introduction of Learn. The introduction has found approval from instructors who are using the new program.

Associate Professor of Education Lynn Zimmerman, who chose to transition to Learn this semester, said it is easier to use than Vista. She cited the more efficient click-and-drag feature available to instructors for setting up their course sections.

Zamojski said that some faculty members are finding the change difficult, but expressed confidence that these challenges are nothing more than what any new technology presents.

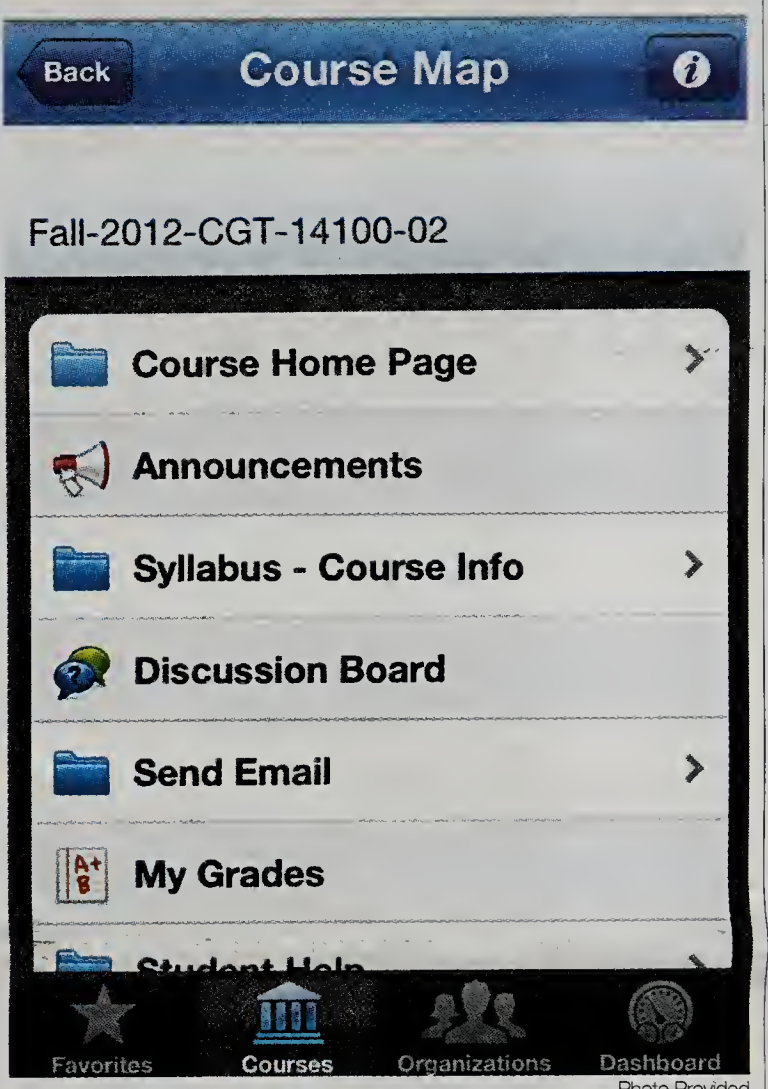

Photo Provided

The new Blackboard Mobile Learn application

Zamojski cited Learn's added compatibility with supplemental materials often provided by publishers to correspond with the textbooks they produce. Besides the overall functions of Learn, Zamojski added that any class section of can be accessed on students' mobile devices through an application called Blackboard Mobile Learn.

The app allows students to watch short videos, check discussion boards and announcements, as well as use many of the other

See Blackboard page 4

Student Convocation: A scholarly welcome

Melissa Pilipow
News Editor

Dennis Dong, senior computer science major, smiled as caricature artist Ellen Lustig sketched the curve of his chin with a black marker during Student Convocation on Thursday, Aug. 23.

While attempting to remain still, Dong said he was enjoying the student welcoming festivities held in Founders Plaza. As an international student from Beijing, this is Dong's first semester at PUC. Previously, Dong attended the Beijing Institute of Technology, where he said student convocations are very different.

"It's been very good and fresh for me," Dong said, commenting on the overall atmosphere of the event. "In China, they have a lot of presentations and just show you the university."

At PUC, Student Convocation is a combination of various *activities, food, music and student* organization recruitment tables. Not only do the festivities encourage student involvement, but they also welcome back students to a new school year.

PUC Chancellor Thomas Keon opened his convocation address by expressing his fondness for this time of the year.

"I always think the start of the school year is such an uplifting experience," Keon said.

In his address, Keon also spoke to the importance of student and faculty engagement to make PUC the hometown university of Northwest Indiana.

SGA President Marisa Henderson welcomed the incoming freshman class as well as returning students. Henderson, who also participated in the onstage discussion panel, assured students that by choosing to attend PUC, they have the opportunity to learn from professors who play active roles in their chosen academic fields.

"Not only has Purdue University Calumet become an informed university, but they have made a mark on the world," Henderson said, alluding to Associate Professor of Physics Neeti Parashar's contribution to the likely discovery of the Higgs boson, or the "God particle."

Associate Professor of Communication Catherine Gillotti also participated in the discussion panel. In Q-and-A format, students and faculty shared advice and experiences with the audience. Gillotti imparted words of wisdom she received from her older brother after a disappointing grade on her first freshman composition.

"Your professors should know who you are. Don't be afraid *to get to know us," Gillotti said.*

Convocation festivities also served up an assortment of foods, including chocolate-covered pretzels, caramel apple slices, kabobs and fruit smoothies, all provided by PUC organizations. Additionally, students could take pictures in the photo booth provided by Student Activities.

Seconds before Dong received his completed caricature, he described his expectations for the year ahead.

"I plan to study a lot at first. Then I'd like to meet a lot of new people," Dong said.

See Convo page 4

Tastes of the Region

Melissa Pilipow
News Editor

With chain restaurants and fast food wildly abundant in the Region, it can be difficult to find something new, affordable and delicious. Fortunately, PUC is nestled in a part of the Region where small, local businesses and mom and pop restaurants have taken root. When looking for a filling meal, a sweet treat or just a cup of coffee, look no further than a fifteen minute car ride for a taste of the Region.

Munster Donut

Since 1969, the shop has been serving up a plethora of coffee and doughnuts – both classic and unique – 24 hours a day.

On average, Munster Donut bakes anywhere from 300 to 500 doughnuts a day, according to employee Chris Frederick, 19. Prices for traditional frosted doughnuts to fancier Honey Dew, German chocolate and Sour Creme varieties range from 75 to 80 cents apiece. Coffee, however, is the top-selling item at Munster Donut with a price tag of only $1.45. Sugar-free delights are also on the menu.

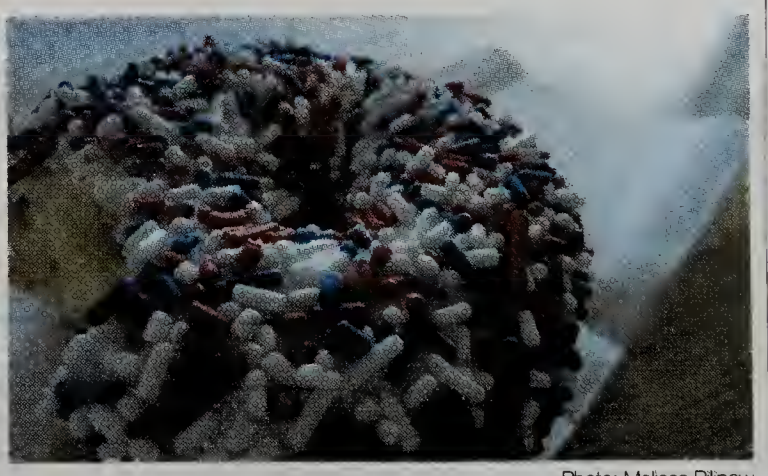

Photo: Melissa Pilipow

A frosted cake donut with sprinkles from Munster Donut

Housed in the quaint shop are little more than a few treat-filled display cases and low counters for customers to enjoy their coffee and company. Though the brown-padded stools have seen

See Tastes page 4

Photo: Melissa Pilipow

New SGA President Marisa Henderson addresses the crowd during the Student Convocation hosted by Student Activities on Aug. 23 in Founders Plaza.

POLICE BLOTTER

8.13.12 - SULB -10 a.m.

Subject became agitated when asked by employee if he needed assistance.

Closed

8.14.12 - Riley Child Care - 8 a.m.

Report of a suspicious vechicle near the child center. Vehicle was located, and occupants were found to be doing business at the university.

Advised

8.15.12 - CLO - 3:15 p.m.

Subject was asking "weird" and "off the wall" questions.

Advised

8.20.12 - UV2 - 6:21 a.m.

A van was found abandoned behind the National Guard Armory.

Open

8.20.12 - SULB - 4:30 p.m.

A Purdue University Calumet check was found and returned to Bursars office.

Closed

8.21.12 - Gyte - 7:30 a.m.

A parking gate was found to be broken.

Closed

8.21.12 - Porter - 2:00 p.m.

An envelope containing USC was found to be missing, but was later found.

Closed

8.21.12 - Lawshe - 4:00 p.m.

Unknown person cancelled three of the vicitim's classes.

Closed

8.21.12 - Fitness Center - 9 a.m.

Alcoholic beverages were found in an unoccupied locker.

Destroyed/Closed

8.22.12 - Parking Garage - 11:03 a.m.

A parked vehicle rolled backwards into another vehicle.

Closed

What's Going On?
A look around PUC...

"The Towle Theater to present World Premiere"

The final show of the Towle Theater's 2012 Subscription Series is the poignant comedy Leaving Iowa. Tom Farley of Chicago plays Don Browning, a middle-aged writer, who returns home and decides to finally take his father's ashes to his childhood home, as requested. But when Don discovers Grandma's house is now a grocery store, he begins traveling across Iowa searching for a proper resting place for his father. This father-and-son road trip shifts smoothly from the present to Don's memories of the annual, torturous vacations of his childhood. Don's existential journey leads him to reconcile his past and present at the center of the United States. Leaving Iowa is a postcard to anyone who has ever found himself or herself driving alone on a road, revisiting fond memories of his or her youth.

Also in the cast is Michael (Doc) Kuhn of Schererville who plays Dad, Donna Rettew of Valparaiso who plays Mom and Denise Kus of Hammond who plays Sis. Sherry Sweeney of Hobart and Cleo Michelle Milan of Munster both play a multitude of characters from Don's past and present.

Leaving Iowa ran at the Royal George Theatre in Chicago five years ago, but since then the authors have made rewrites to the script. The Towle Theater is fortunate to be working with Tim Clue and Spike Manton and this will be the world Premiere of the revised version. Audience members will have a chance to meet writer Tim Clue at the Talk-Back following the September 15 performance. This is a question and answer session with the production staff, cast and author. Please feel free to stay and ask questions or just observe.

Every Friday performance is Educator Appreciation Night with buy-one-get-one free tickets to all educators with a school ID. All performances except Sunday matinees will have limited student RUSH (buy-one-get-one free tickets) for students who show a current student ID one hour before the show. Thursday, September 20th will be Industry Night. Anyone who works in theater and brings a headshot, resume or playbill with their name in it will get a buy-one-get-one free ticket. Reservations required for all specials except student RUSH. Leaving Iowa is rated G. Children under six are not permitted in the theater.

Leaving Iowa performance dates are September 7-9, 14-16 & 20-23. Thursdays-Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm. Tickets are only $17. All tickets must be paid for in advance and are non-refundable. Please arrive no later than 15 minutes prior to curtain. There will be no late seating.

The Towle Theatre is located in beautiful downtown Hammond at 5205 Hohman Avenue. Free, well-lit, secured parking is available just off of Fayette Street only steps away from our alley entrance at the back of the theater. For tickets or more information please call 219-937-8780 or visit www.towletheater.org.

Purdue Theatre Co. auditions for "The Perfect Garden"

The Purdue Theatre Co. is producing a play written by our own faculty member, Dr. Theresa Carilli. This is not the first time our company has produced one of her plays: in 2008 we mounted "Cat Hoarders Anonymous," a one-act by Dr. Carilli that was recently produced off-Broadway in New York City!! This fall we will be presenting "The Perfect Garden," a comedy. This will be the world premiere of the play. Casting will take place on Friday, Aug 31 from 1pm to 3pm in YJean Chambers Hall. Cast calls for 5 players: 4 women and 1 man. Performances will take place on Nov 9, 10, 11, 17 and 18. Friday and Saturday performances will be at 8pm, Sundays at 3pm. All performances will take place in YJean Chambers Hall, SULB 353. Tickets will cost $10 for adults; PUC students with ID attend for $5. Reservations can be made by calling 989-2357. We look forward to letting the campus community and all of the South Shore creative community experience Dr. Carilli's humor, intelligence and compassion in this play that tells the story of "same sex domestic partners," tending their home and beautiful garden, who suddenly find their world turned upside down when a close relative dies and leaves his last request. Socially relevant, lovingly told, this is a play for mature audiences although children over the age of 12 will be admitted if accompanied by a parent or guardian. For questions and/or more information contact Corya Kennedy Channing, Director of the Purdue Theatre Co. at 989 2267 or write to *channing@purduecal.edu*

Anyone interested in publicizing events, organizations, clubs or departments in "What's Going On?" must submit briefs the Monday before publication. The Chronicle does not guarantee placement of briefs submitted.

Please limit submissions to four sentences and include the first and last name of the contact person.

Briefs may be submitted via e-mail at pucchronicle@gmail.com or campus cc:mail - Chronicle or to the newsroom located in the Student Union and Library building, room 344H.

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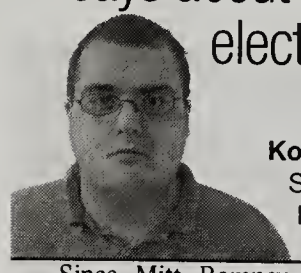
What Akin says about the election



Bill Koester
Sports Editor

Since Mitt Romney chose Paul Ryan as his running mate, the media has declared this year's election a mandate on the economic future of this country.

True as that may be, if you think that's all that is at stake in this election, you're not paying attention.

One thing you probably did hear about is the shockingly insane comments of Rep. Todd Akin, a Republican running for the Senate in Missouri. During an interview, he suggested that the female body has defense mechanisms that prevent women from getting pregnant from rape.

It goes without saying that this is factually wrong. If Akin actually believes this, he's frankly too stupid to hold office. If he does not believe it, but was using this to argue his point on abortion, then he has shown himself as a misogynist with no compassion for rape victims. If he was just pandering, he has still crossed a line that political discourse should never come close to. Whatever the case, this should make him ineligible for any office.

Even worse than Akin's comments is the fact that the Republican Party has even gotten to that line. Not just in its rhetoric, but in pushing for and passing laws mandating procedures upon women without their consent (look up trans-vaginal ultrasounds), forcing doctors to give them false information, and other things that take away women's health care rights.

This is the same party that argued government should not come into play in health care decisions during the health care debates. Republicans consider themselves the party of individual rights, but the only individual right they seem support is the right not to be taxed (which, as the 16th Amendment states, is not a right).

As much as I may find the Republican economic plan abhorrent and cruel, it does address political issues, meaning issues that should be up for debate. Taxes, what the government should spend and energy policy are political issues.

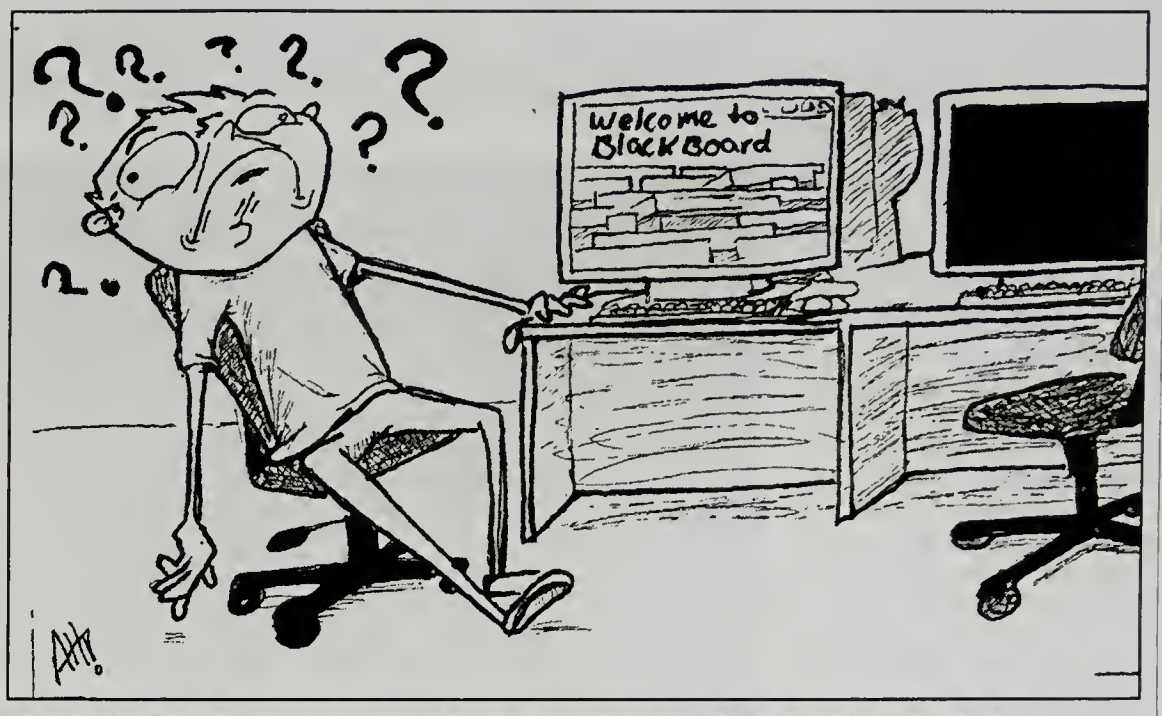
Whether or not a woman should be prodded against her will or denied information about her health care is not a political issue. It is a basic human rights issue.

Whether or not gays should be able to have equal rights is not a political issue. It is a civil rights issue.

So, no, this election is not simply a decision on the economy. It is a decision on the state of human rights in this country. The difference between the Democrat agenda and the Republican agenda is the difference between human rights and the denial of those rights.

Regardless of your pocketbook, if you are a person with freethinking skills who values peoples' rights, the choice is obvious.

Readers can contact Bill at chronicle_sports_editor@yahoo.com or (219) 989-2547.



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Fall 2012

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Michelle Mullins, Entertainment Editor
Bill Koester, Sports Editor
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Learn implementation hinders learning?

The issue: PUC's new technology implementations have not been well-communicated
Our stance: Students need training, too

We're all a week in now. Students should be starting to get back into the swing of things around PUC. And perhaps they are.

However, this semester brought a few new and not quite well-communicated items to the table.

The transition from Blackboard Vista to Blackboard Learn is in progress. See *"Blackboard makes the mobile move" by Richard Chambers on page 1.* Most students probably didn't think much of this before classes started, and overall it is a positive move for the campus. The new Learn platform is much more modern looking and so far seems to have generally user-friendly functions, without mentioning the mobile application which has been a much-needed addition.

The problem with the whole thing is that communication has been lacking in the department of training for students on Learn. Perhaps the thought was that students may be more technologically savvy than instructors, who did receive training. Either way, some students could not even find their classes on Blackboard because of the mixture of classes using Vista or Learn. The Learn login link is buried within PUC's website, as well. By the way, to find it, go to *mycourses.purduecal.edu.*

Then there's the issue of students not being able to find their specific materials on Learn. It is possible to spend 15 minutes searching for one link in a class and still never find it. Students need some kind of help with this transition. There may be different options or preferences students can customize in Learn, but students do not know about the options because they have just been thrown into the platform.

The mobile app seems easy enough to use, but it is only functional on a wireless connection. If you try to use the app without wireless on your cell phone, a window pops up that says "Sorry, your institution's configuration does not allow receiving data via cellular connection. Please connect to a Wi-Fi network and try again." What's the point of a mobile app without all the mobile functionality?

Many classes rely heavily on Blackboard for either supplemental or required materials, and distance learning courses are held almost exclusively through Blackboard. Students need to know what is going on and how to use the new platform, or it will hinder their learning experiences and grades in classes.

Students are not completely innocent on this issue; there has been some information given out by professors of specific classes that are using Learn. Also, it is possible to find Learn's tutorial videos at *webs.purduecal.edu/oit/learn/support-tools.* Most students were not informed of these tools, though.

Hopefully, there will be some kind of communication about this issue soon. It just seems a little late in the game.

COMMENTS?

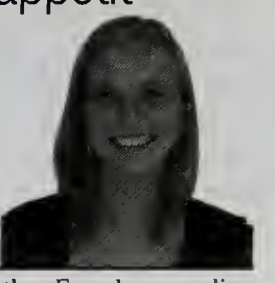
Write to us and see your thoughts in print!

The Chronicle Editorial Policy

The views expressed in submitted commentaries and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of The Chronicle or Purdue University Calumet. The Chronicle is not an official publication of Purdue University Calumet. The Chronicle welcomes reader input. Letters and commentaries must include the writers name, class standing or other affiliation and a telephone number for verification. The more concise the letter, the better chance of publication. All materials submitted to The Chronicle become the property of The Chronicle. The Chronicle reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, space and news style. Deadline for submissions is the Friday before the publication.

Bon appetit

Melissa Pilipow
News Editor



Cue the French accordion music and let yourself escape to Paris circa 1948 – a place and time most of us have never been. When my imagination can't take me there, I clear ample space on my kitchen table to prop up Julia Child's massive 524-recipe anthology "Mastering the Art of French Cooking."

Although I love to cook and occasionally experience bursts of culinary inspiration, sticking my hand in an oven mitt and gluing my hip to the stove for nearly four hours isn't always my cup of tea. In fact, it hardly ever is.

But I can't ignore my fiancee's increasing number of requests for boeuf bourguignon, his favorite recipe from Child's cookbook. While composing a mental grocery list, I recalled hearing about the recent passing of the 100th birthday of the late Child on August 15.

It could have been a dry news day that caused television networks to lavish time, attention and praise on Child's honor. Even if I weren't an admirer of the television personality and pioneer, I could not admit this to be a possibility. Julia Child is not filler news.

Looking back, I remember my 13th birthday when I was in the seventh grade. More than five hours had passed, and not a single *one of my friends remembered the* occasion. Of course, *I* eventually poked and prodded their memories until they discovered why I had been so glum. However, the fact of the matter is that many of you may share a similar story. If it weren't for Facebook, even more people's birthdays would likely pass unnoticed. But here's Julia Child, so much an icon that her fame lives far beyond her physical years.

I understand that not everyone can be significant in the manner and capacity as Child was through her nearly 92 years. Not only was she a wildly successful cookbook author and contributor, but she also distinguished herself as a powerful, yet amiable television personality. Most people don't know that Child travelled the world for volunteer work during World War II. In these days, prior to attending the Cordon Bleu cooking school, Child worked for a government intelligence agency dealing with top-secret documents.

Needless to say, Child's arduous labors did not go unrewarded. Consequently, Child was not only passionate, but also successful. Without her devotion, I doubt that she could have reached her sensational status, and look how she's remembered because of it.

Like I said, we can't all be at Child's level of prestige, but can't we all dish up a couple extra plates of passion every now and again? Just a little bit more effort may not be a ticket to you famed remembrance, but it may get you through this year's birthday.

Readers can contact Melissa at chronicle_newseditor@yahoo.com or (219) 989-2547.

Tastes

continued from page 1

better days, the cracks in the fabrics add a sense of lived-in familiarity and character.

During his second day on the job, Frederick said he can already tell Munster Donut has many loyal and regular customers.

"I really like the communication between the people that come in here," Frederick said, referring to his favorite part about Munster Donut.

Munster Donut
8314 Calumet Ave., Munster
219-836-1709
Closed Christmas and Easter

Grindhouse Cafe

With food and drink names ranging from the Eggplant Wizard to the Cactaur to the Jammin' Ham, the Grindhouse Cafe is nothing short of a creative eatery. Owned by operated by the brother-sister team of Gabe and Kate Mauch, the Grindhouse opened May 26 on Broad Street in Griffith.

The sibling duo began the long journey to their vision of opening their own cafe when they attended the Cooking and Hospitality Institute of Chicago in 2004.

The Grindhouse, complete with "Pastry Wizard" Traci Cavanaugh, offers a variety of signature sandwiches, salads, beverages and fresh-baked sweets. Their coffee, purchased from Metropolis, a local vendor in Chicago, varies from day to day. Customers can read a brief description of the coffee of the day written on the chalkboard wall. According to Gabe, the Chicken Sammich is the most popular food item. Specialty drinks, such as the Cactaur and lattes receive the most requests when it comes to beverages.

"We sell a latte them," Gabe said, joking about the large number of lattes the shop sells.

The Mauchs originality and innovation of menu items carries into the design of the cafe. Each of the walls are painted with a vibrant hue of either turquoise, orange or red. Chairs in the Grindhouse Cafe have been "yarn bombed" (decorated with knitted projects instead of paint or chalk) by Gabe's wife, Kathleen Mauch, and Sarah Nelson, a friend of Kate's. A sectional sofa, music and free Wi-Fi contribute to creating a relaxed, creative atmosphere.

Photo: Melissa Pilipow

The festive hand drawn menu of Grindhouse Cafe in Griffith

146 N. Broad St., Griffith
219-595-5678
Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Convo

continued from page 1

Photos: Melissa Pilipow

Top: International student Dennis Dong sits as his caricature is drawn at the artists' booth.

Bottom: Students stand in line for caramel apples at the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs' table.

Blackboard

continued from page 1

features offered in the online version.

"Some things are limited to what's limited by a mobile device anyway," Zamojski said, adding that the app would offer all features that students would likely want.

Zamojski said she has heard positive reviews from students, with little negative feedback. She anticipates receiving more responses as the fall semester progresses.

She said the transition is going smoothly and that there have not been any significant roadblocks to the changeover process.

To find out more about Learn, students can watch tutorials available on the "Office of Instructional Technology" section of the PUC website. A full list of the courses using Learn can also be found there.

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Call for Tour!
ext. 2343
1-800-HI-PURDUE
1/3-mile north of Interstate 80/94, three blocks east of Indianapolis Blvd. to campus and south at the traffic light into the south parking lot.

Hugh Laurie brings New Orleans to Chicago

Photo: gazette.com

Hugh Laurie and Copper Bottom Band member Sister Jean McClain pay homage to true New Orleans jazz at Park West in Chicago on Aug. 21.

Michelle Mullins
Entertainment Writer

Best known for his role as the infamous Dr. House in "House M.D.," Hugh Laurie has a his passion for music, especially New Orleans jazz. Along with The Copper Bottom Band, he played at the sold out Chicago's Park West theatre on Aug. 21 and proceeded to groove into the late hours of the night.

Laurie displayed his acclaimed piano and guitar skills while playing covers of many well-known jazz songs such as "Mellow Down Easy" by Little Walter and "Unchain My Heart" by Ray Charles, to name a few. Laurie's singing sounds much better live – an unexpected treat. Blues, jazz and soul can be hard for some to sing since so much passion and soul has to be behind it. It may be even harder for a British actor to get into that mindset, but Laurie was able to accomplish this beautifully. Every word he sung was felt throughout the audience. The audience swayed, and a couple even got up and slow danced during his performance.

The show was not merely a performance; it was a history lesson and a comedy show as well. As odd as it sounds for a British actor to know anything about the blues, let alone New Orleans blues, Laurie proved he knew it well. Between each song Laurie would stop and explain either why he choose the song or the story behind it. He was also very intimate with the audience, happily responding to anything yelled at him, which is rare with most musical artists. Many audience members would not let him live down his role as House shouting, "We love you, House!" to which he would respond with, "I have no limp, I'm talking funny, and she still believes I'm a fictional character, strange...." He even offered his band a shot of whiskey midway through the show, which they very much deserved.

See House page 6

Zombies and Humor

Jeff Scott
Entertainment Writer

A misunderstood 11-year-old who can see and talk to ghosts emerges as the unlikely hero in "ParaNorman," a new stop-motion animated feature from the studio that made "Coraline."

Norman, voiced by Kodi Smit-McPhee ("Let Me In"), lives in Blithe Hollow, a small New England town with a history of witch hunts. He is obsessed with zombie movies, games and posters. He can also communicate with ghosts, which no one else can do. As a result, his parents and teenage sister Courtney, voiced by Anna Kendrick, ("Up in the Air"), do not believe him. The other kids at school pick on him, and his only friend is overweight misfit Neil, voiced by Tucker Abrizzi ("Big Time Rush"). The ghosts warn Norman that the town has been cursed by a witch. It is up to Norman to break the curse, or else a plague of zombies will be unleashed on Blithe Hollow. Needless to say, things go wrong.

The film is a fast paced mix of humor, zombie attacks and horror-movie homage. The look of "ParaNorman" creates a creepy atmosphere. The zombies look fierce and menacing, the graveyard Norman visits when he tries to break the curse is visually gross, and the big showdown with the witch seems genuinely scary. While the film has no explicit

See ParaNorman page 6

Photo: collider.com

"ParaNorman" is director Chris Butler's third claymation film in the past eight years.

Office of Student Activities
www.purduecal.edu/studentactivities
Sponsored by Student Activities
Women's Volleyball Tailgate with Free Pizza!
Weds. Aug. 29
6pm-7pm
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PUC PEREGRINES
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Bank Fair
Tuesday, Aug. 28
10am – 6pm
CLO Concourse
Student Activities and New Student Orientation
WELCOME BACK PICNIC
Tuesday, Sept. 4
11am – 2pm
Founders Plaza
PUC Student ID Required
DJ Music & Free Food
Tunes @ Noon – Ken Bier
Thurs. Sept. 6
11am-1:30pm
Oaken Arbor Cafe, SUL
Plays a variety of music--including rock, classical, blues, jazz, and contemporary
Sponsored by Student Activities
Footloose
Student Activities Presents
Outdoor Movie
"Footloose"
Thursday, Sept. 6
Begins at dusk
Outside SUL
Free
Saturday, Sept. 15
10:30am - 5pm
Student Activities presents
$35
STUDENT CRUISE
On Lake Michigan and the Chicago River
Includes bus ride to/from Navy Pier; 3-hour cruise on a private yacht reserved only for PUC; and lunch.
Register in person Aug. 22 to Sept. 11 in SUL 4048. PUC Student ID required.
No credit cards. Students may register 1 non-student guest starting Sept. 6. Questions? Call 989-2369.

'Fez' offers a fresh perspective on gaming

Brian Lynch
Entertainment Writer

Nostalgia is a powerful thing. Under the right conditions, it can instantly transport a person to a long-forgotten time in life and make him or her feel like a kid again. Even something as simple as a design or melody can strike that chord, reducing adults to wide-eyed children. As far as nostalgia is concerned, Phil Fish's long-awaited platformer "Fez" pushes all the right buttons.

Players take control of Gomez, a young boy living an idyllic life in his simple 2-D village. That all changes when he receives the titular fez, which allows him to see that the world is not flat after all. His new ability to travel in 3-D space breaks the mysterious and omnipotent cube known as the Hexahedron, scattering its pieces across the world. Gomez must recover these pieces and restore the cube before the whole of reality collapses on itself.

"Fez" is an absolutely ambitious game. Originally announced in 2007, it went through several different versions and was completely redone no less than twice. The game's creator, Phil Fish, became something of an Internet pariah during this time, and the game's hardships were well-documented in the film "Indie Game: The Movie." But for all the bumps along the way, "Fez" arrives as both a technical masterpiece and a love letter to gaming's heyday.

At its core, "Fez" is a game about exploration. Players can use the left and right triggers to rotate the 2-D landscape up to 360 degrees, finding new pathways to advance. Once rotated, the world's logic returns to two dimensional, meaning platforms and surfaces that were previously far apart can be easily reached from the right perspective. It is a simple concept that is executed flawlessly.

Visually, the game is stunning. Vibrant colors and sharp pixel art are a definite nod to the early NES platformers that inspired "Fez." There are also dozens of homages to games like "Tetris," "The Legend of Zelda" and "Super Mario Brothers" littered throughout the game. The amount of detail packed in to the various levels is astounding, and the game is absolute eye candy. The game's beautiful chip tunes soundtrack helps set the tone, making "Fez" an all-out retro assault on the senses.

At first, it may seem like "Fez" is an easy game. There are no enemies, no time limits and no penalties for dying. While it is true the game is more laid back than most, "Fez" is anything but "easy." The game features some truly mind-boggling puzzles that require serious thought and practice to overcome. Finding the minimum amount of cubes required to beat the game may be possible for most gamers, but finding all 64 hidden throughout the world and unlocking the true ending is a downright Herculean task. There are countless secrets waiting to be discovered, an alien language to translate and hints of a deeper story than simply what is on the surface. And "Fez" makes the player work to discover all of them. There is no hand-holding, and very little is spelled out for the player beyond the basic mechanics. Discovering all "Fez" has to offer comes down to a combination of cleverness and determination. Players may want to keep a notebook handy to keep track of everything, which is something many gamers have not done since the days of 8-bit gaming.

There is no such thing as a "perfect game," and "Fez" is no exception. The game is positively massive, with multiple rooms and areas spiderwebbing from each other. Keeping track of where everything is and finding a way back to earlier areas is practically a game in and of itself. There is a world map, thankfully, but late in the game it becomes almost cluttered with all of the game's various rooms. Trying to find the last few undiscovered secrets can be extremely frustrating, especially since the clues to uncover them are incredibly easy to overlook. It is clear the game is looking to emulate the difficulty of classic games, but in the Internet age where gamers can find video walkthroughs on YouTube in seconds, the formula just feels antiquated.

It is also worth mentioning that the latest, and likely final, game patch has a bug that can completely wipe out a player's save file. Though it has been assured this bug is by no means widespread, losing hours of progress is still a possibility.

For all its flaws and falters, "Fez" is still a remarkable game. It is a testament to everything good about classic gaming while standing as a creative and technical modern marvel. No matter what era a gamer is from, "Fez" will not disappoint.

★★★★

Grumpy old action heroes

Bill Koester
Sports Editor

"The Expendables 2" has a dream scenario for every action fan: Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bruce Willis and Chuck Norris teaming up for the climactic fight. And their opponent? Jean-Claude Van Damme.

That would have been the coolest movie ever about 20 years ago, when those guys were still bankable stars on the younger side of middle age. Now, though, when they are either at, or approaching, senior citizenship, it is not quite as exciting. Sadly, that is about all this sequel to the 2010 hit has going for it.

The story has the eponymous mercenary team—made up of Stallone ("Rocky"), Jason Statham ("Crank"), Jet Li ("The Forbidden Kingdom"), Dolph Lundgren ("Rocky IV"), Terry Crews ("Everybody Loves Chris"), UFC's Randy Couture and newcomers Liam Hemsworth ("The Hunger Games") and Yu Nan—traveling to Eastern Europe to retrieve a map to an abandoned Soviet nuclear stockpile. After an ambush by their ruthless enemies, led by Van Damme ("Bloodsport"), the team sets out to stop the enemies from stealing the radioactive material from the site and selling it on the black market.

There are some good action scenes (ridiculous, over-the-top and a little silly, but entertaining nonetheless), but when the guns are holstered, the movie drags. "The Expendables 2" is not as fun as some of the other films these guys have been in. Instead of just playing it as a tongue-in-cheek tribute to the action pictures of yesteryear, frequent scenes of brooding and sulking about death do not gel with the ridiculousness of the whole concept.

It is especially out of place when the whole movie is obviously just a big setup for the aforementioned meeting of legends in battle. The story is obviously no more than an excuse to get to that point, as every line and plot point falls into place to set up the final fight. Norris literally appears out of nowhere, playing off his status as an Internet cult hero.

Photo: acehshowbiz.com

Barney Ross (Sylvester Stallone) zones in for the kill in "Expendables 2."

The film surpasses the original simply for delivering on the final fight, whose gimmick of all these stars in one movie was misleading. The action is apparent, but, aside from Stallone, the legends people came to see merely made cameos instead of taking part in the mayhem.

As the bloodshed gets more ridiculous, the stars get more self-referential by dropping in little pieces from their other movies. Willis and Schwarzenegger trade the catchphrases from "Die Hard" and "Terminator" in a scene that borders on lame and awesome.

The finale is satisfying enough, but it never quite lives up to the sound of the idea on paper or even measures up to action scenes in better movies. It is like seeing four great musicians team up to form a super group, but many years after they were famous and only because they need the money. It is time better spent going back to their old work.

★★½

ParaNorman

continued from page 5

blood and gore, parents should keep in mind that some of these elements may frighten or disturb very young children.

As for the script, it is merely okay. In one scene, Courtney says, "Not believing in an afterlife is like not believing in astrology." The humor does not work all of the time. Some of the intended funny bits come almost entirely from crude jokes, dumb puns and silly dialog rather than from situations at hand. Sometimes it seems as though the film's scriptwriters were too busy trying to toss off of one-liners rather than refining the dialog.

The story is also filled with broad stereotypes. For example, Courtney is a dumb blonde cheerleader. Neil's brother Mitch, voiced by Casey Affleck ("Gone Baby Gone"), is a high school jock with his brains in his biceps. It would have been nice to see more than one or two characters that were not lacking in the brains department. Norman's dad is also a stereotype, the stern man who does not understand his son. Would it be too much to ask to have a dad in a kid's movie that was not a jerk, just for once?

On the other hand, the movie does have some positive messages to send without hitting the audience over the head. Norman does not let bullies get to him; he knows he is a better person than others think. Finally, a group of very different kids ends up working together when the need arises. Neil, Courtney, Mitch and mean kid Alvin, voiced by Christopher Mintz-Plasse ("Superbad") all surprisingly come to Norman's defense when he is confronted by an angry mob blaming him for the zombies being unleashed.

"ParaNorman" could have benefitted from a stronger script and a lesser emphasis on dumb humor, but, it is also good-natured and fun film with a likeable, unlikely hero.

★★★

House

continued from page 5

The Cotton Bottom Band received high levels of praise from Laurie as the show progressed. After the first song of the night, "Mellow Down Easy," the audience could easily see this was not the band's first show. The band, originally from Tennessee, swung right alongside Laurie, sometimes surpassing him, and took the audience on a ride through the South. Each member was given their own solo or song to could shine on, which no one in the band or audience seemed to mind.

"I don't think you understand how much it means to me to stand here, in Chicago, in front of you all and play," Laurie spoke in between sets, "I've dreamed of this ever since I was a little boy." He began to get choked up and the entire crowd cheered in an uproar.

After almost every song there was someone out of their seat giving Laurie or the band a standing ovation. Laurie and the band even came back and did two encores for the house, after which, he kindly bowed and pointed straight towards the band behind him.

The tour started in 2011 and showcases Laurie's first album "Let Them Talk," which is a cover album. He has traveled all over the world showing off his jazzy repertoire. The tour will be in the Midwest for a few more shows, travelling to Carmel, Ind.; Lexington, Ky.; and Middletown, Ohio.

To purchase Hugh Laurie's album or search for tour dates, visit *www.hughlaurieblues.com*.

Rating System

★★★★★ ESSENTIAL
★★★★ EXCELLENT
★★★ AVERAGE
★★ POOR
★ AWFUL

Armstrong hurts. A lot.

Bill Koester
Sports Editor

This week, cycling icon Lance Armstrong was stripped of all seven of his Tour de France titles by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency. Armstrong himself said he will not appeal the decision, all but finally admitting to taking performance-enhancing drugs.

This event caps a few-week span that also saw Oakland Athletics pitcher Bartolo Colon and San Francisco Giants outfielder Melky Cabrera each suspended for 50 games for taking PEDs. Their suspensions, coupled with a positive test last fall for Milwaukee Brewers outfielder and reigning N.L. MVP Ryan Braun, suggest the ugly truth that baseball's PED problem did not end after the Mitchell Report in 2007.

News like this would have rocked the sports world a few years back, but at this point, it barely seems like more than the small story of the week. These things happen so much that the general public looks upon them with indifference, not outrage.

I, myself, was strongly against steroids and other PEDs back when the problem first became public -- around when Barry Bonds was closing in on the homerun record -- but at this point, even I am bored by it. As long as the players from the teams I root for are not the ones getting suspended, I don't really care.

It is a little sad to think that so many people find inspiration in these athletes for their accomplishments, and then have to see their heroes are not so heroic after all. It's too bad drugs got so bad in sports that this cynical apathy is now the norm, but the fact that it is should serve as a lesson: Sports is not the place to look for heroes. Not when things like this are so commonplace.

Armstrong hurts a lot more than Bonds or Mark McGuire because he inspired so many on a higher level than any of them did. He did everything after beating three types of cancer. He was living proof, not just of what humans could work to achieve, but what they could do after looking certain death in the face. He used his fame to fund cancer research (Remember those Livestrong bracelets?) and inspired people to beat the disease as well as to be the best athlete.

Alas, it was an idea built on lies.

Real heroes are people who do things to help change the world for the better. Putting all our hopes and aspirations in people just for playing a game well, only to find out that they did so by cheating, has changed the world for the worse.

Games this week:

Volleyball:

Aug. 28 at Indiana Kokomo

Aug. 29 vs. Indiana Northwest

Women's Soccer:

Aug. 28 at Siena Heights

Aug. 30 vs. Davenport

Cross Country:

Aug. 31 Crusader Open

W. Soccer

continued from page 8

two goals from Maxzine Rossler. Rossler's goals were at the 70th minute and on a penalty kick.

PUC outshot Bethel 16-14 (12-8 on shots on goal), but Pilots goalkeeper Sarah Mott was on, making 10 saves during the whole 90 minutes. Bethel added one more goal to bring the final score to 6-2, handing PUC a loss.

The team travels to Adrian, Mich., looking to score their first win against the Siena Heights Saints on Tuesday, Aug. 28. PUC's home opener is scheduled for Aug. 30 against the Davenport University Panthers.

Intramural

continued from page 8

ing the intramural program PUC has today is Rob Jensen. In 2001, after the program had fallen on hard times and was down to two sports, Jensen, then the athletic director, established Dudzik's current position to work on making it a big part of campus life again.

"[Jensen] fought hard to make this position a full-time position that solely focused on intramurals," Dudzik said. "He had to [do] a lot of convincing to the administration that this position should be created in advance of the housing being built so we could get the program established."

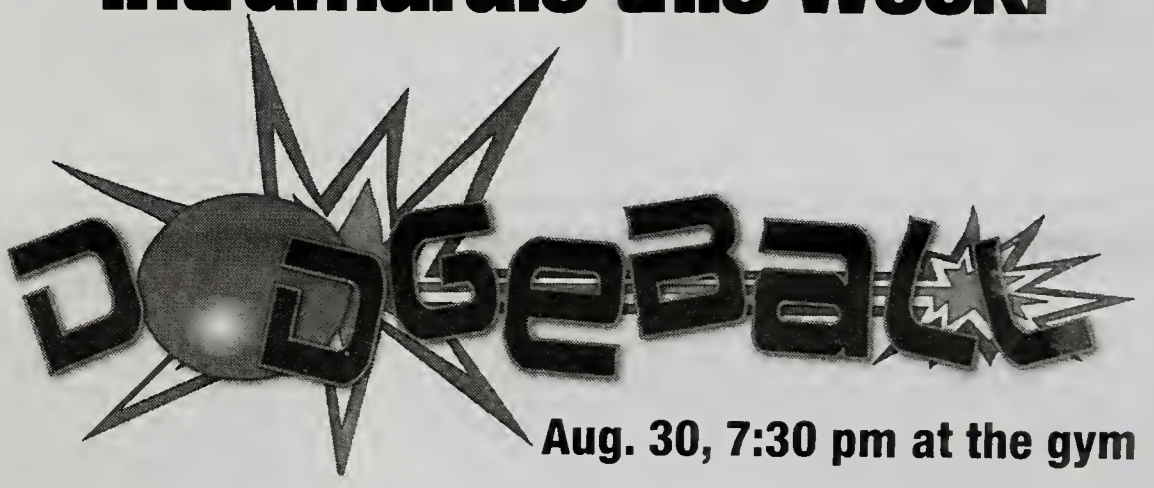
"I owe a great deal to Rob for not only working hard on [creating] this position but also having the confidence in me to develop the program," Dudzik said.

To celebrate its diamond anniversary, intramurals will pay tribute to the days of Hayes by holding an outdoor H.O.R.S.E. tournament on Sept. 10. There will also be giveaways and contests to mark the event, the biggest of which will be a celebratory dinner and trivia night at Buffalo Wild Wings in Lansing.

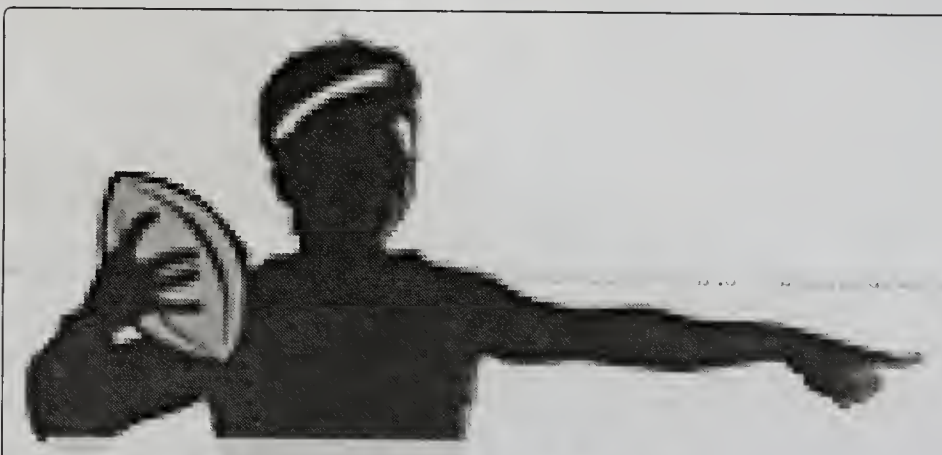
All intramural leagues will return this fall, including volleyball and flag football, as well as one-night only events like the field goal contest and homerun derby. For the nonathletes at PUC, there will be events such as the eating contest, the intra-mural art contest, the new Uno tournament and the baking contest. As an added level of excitement, the baking contest will be featured in the Food Network Magazine.

Intramurals begin Aug. 30 with open play dodgeball in the gym at 7:30.

Intramurals this week:



Aug. 30, 7:30 pm at the gym



Upcoming deadlines:

Flag Football callout meeting: Sept. 5, 6:30, FRC 129

Floor Hockey entry deadline: Sept. 6

Women's first season of soccer begins

Photo Provided

The PUC women's soccer team is ready to make a splash in their inaugural season.

Michelle Calhoun
Sports Writer

A new era has begun for PUC athletics, as the women's soccer team made its debut against Bethel College on Aug. 25.

Training began for the fresh team on Aug. 1. Head coach Leslie Ferguson, who previously coached at Waubonsee Community College, is optimistic about the team's first season.

"We are overcoming some early season injuries, but the team has worked hard during pre-season to get themselves into game shape," Ferguson said. "We are improving every day, and we are looking to be competitive in our first season."

The roster shows a total number of 18 women. There are six junior transfers, five freshmen and seven who are from our campus. Also, Eric Graves has taken the position of assistant coach, and Cory Juran is the goal keep coach.

The season will see the team take the pitch against local opponents, as well as travel a long way to several matches. They will have to go as far as Williamsburg, Ky., for a game against the University of the Cumberlands. Along with Kentucky, they will make a trek out to Ohio and Iowa in October.

Ferguson does not foresee any travel problems and believes that the time together will actually serve to help the new squad build more chemistry.

"These [out of state] games give the girls time to bond as a team, and they look forward to the overnight travels the most," Ferguson said.

The first match of the regular season saw the team travel a shorter distance to Mishawaka, to take on the Pilots of Bethel College.

In the first half, the Pilots go up 4-0, all courtesy of Bethel's Nicole Steller. Bethel eventually made it up to 5-0, after which PUC finally got on the board with

See W. Soccer page 7

Intramurals celebrate diamond anniversary

Bill Koester
Sports Editor

A new school year at PUC means the return of the ever-popular intramural program. Unlike other years, however, this one brings with it a spirit of celebration.

This fall marks the 60th anniversary of intramurals at PUC. Although the current program offers many events throughout the school year, its beginnings were very different.

PUC's intramural program began in 1952, when PUC hired physical education teacher Bob Hayes to start a program for students. The program started humbly that year as a makeshift basketball court was set up outside the building that would later be renamed Gyte. Within a few years, the program moved to the Hammond Armory and expanded to include baseball, ping pong and volleyball.

"Bob's vision was to give the students something to do [on campus], and he made that happen with little to no resources," current intramural director Matt Dudzik said.

In the ensuing decades, many different figures followed in Hayes' footsteps and put their own stamp on the intramural program. Hayes has since retired and lives in Chattanooga, Tenn.

While Hayes began the program in earnest 60 years ago, the figure Dudzik credits with form-

See Intramural page 7

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